

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Yoshiya TOMATSU

Application No.: New U.S. Patent Application

Filed: February 9, 2004

Docket No.: 118595

For: THERMAL FIXING DEVICE AND IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

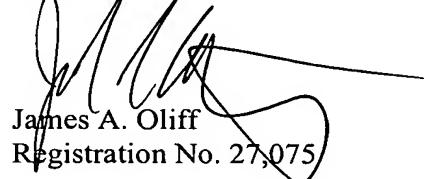
Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

- 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of the U.S. filing date of this non-CPA application, OR (b) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the present application. No certification or fee is required.
- 2. Relevance references 1 and 2 is discussed in the present specification.
- 3. The present application was filed or entered the U.S. National Stage of the PCT after June 30, 2003. In accordance with the June 11, 2003, Notice waiving the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(i), copies of any U.S. patents and patent application publications are not attached.
- 4. English-language Abstracts of the non-English language references 2-5 are attached hereto.

5. A computer-generated English translation of the following Japanese Patent Publications have been obtained from the website of the Japanese Patent Office ([http://www.jpo.go.jp]), and are attached, but have not been reviewed for accuracy. See References 4 and 5.

Respectfully submitted,

  
James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Joel S. Armstrong  
Registration No. 36,430

JAO:JSA/emt

Date: February 9, 2004

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

**DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE  
AUTHORIZATION**  
Please grant any extension  
necessary for entry;  
Charge any fee due to our  
Deposit Account No. 15-0461

Form PTO-1449 (REV. 8-83)		US Dept. of Commerce PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTY DOCKET NO. 118595	APPLICATION NO. New U.S. Patent Application		
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  (Use several sheets if necessary)		APPLICANT Yoshiya TOMATSU				
		FILING DATE February 9, 2004				
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS
	1	4,794,364	12/27/1988	Uehara		
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS
	2	JP B2 6-8869 w/abstr.	02/02/1994	Japan		
	3	JP B2 3209883 w/abstr.	07/13/2001	Japan		
	4	JP A 8-297430 w/abstr. + trans.	11/12/1996	Japan		
	5	JP A 9-114317 w/abstr. + trans.	05/02/1997	Japan		
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)						
EXAMINER					DATE CONSIDERED	
Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.						